Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5418

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC PFOR IS EG

SUBJ: JOINT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI COMMISSION MEETING

1. WHEN WITH GAMASY YESTERDAY, I NOTED THERE HAS BEEN NO JOINT COMMISSION MEETING FOR OVER TWO MONTHS AND ASKED IF AN EARLY MEETING IS ENVISAGED. I POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS HE AND I HAD BEEN DISCUSSING; E.G., ISRAELI BODIES AND EGYPTIAN PRISONERS, ISRAELI NAVAL HARRASSMENT IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, ETC., COULD BEST BE HANDLED IN THE JOINT COMMISSION CONTEXT. I ALSO RECALLED HIS GRATIFICATION ABOUT THE LAST JOINT COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 13.

2. GAMASY SAID HE IS WILLING TO HAVE ANOTHER JOINT COMMISSION MEETING SOME TIME AFTER SIILASVUO RETURNS ON AUGUST 1. HE CLAIMED REASON FOR NO MEETINGS THESE PAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD ANYTHING TO DISUCSS. SOME PRELIMINARY MATTERS AFFECTING VARIOUS OUTSTANDING ISSUES; E.G., PRISONERS, HAD DURING THIS TIME BEEN HANDLED THROUGH UNEF, SO THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME ASSURANCE THAT A JC MEETING, WHEN HELD, WILL BE PRODUCTIVE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED HIS GRATIFICATION ABOUT MAY 13 MEETING, BUT POINTEDLY NOTED ISRAELIS HAD SHORTLY THEREAFTER RESUMED NAVAL HARRASSMENT IN GULF OF SUEZ. IF ISRAELI REP AT JC MEETING CANNOT COMMIT HIS GOVERNMENT, SUCH MEETINGS SECRET

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WILL BE NO MORE THAN FUTILE TALK. IN HIS VIEW, THIS IS

ALSO LIKELY TO BE THE CASE WITHOUT SIILASVUO THERE, SINCE NO OTHER UNEF OFFICERS HAVE SIILASVUO'S PRESTIGE AND SKILL.

3. HE SAID NOTING ABOUT ANY INFORMAL MEETINGS HAVING BEEN HELD AND I THOUGH IT BEST NOT TO ASK ABOUT REPORTS OF SUCH ALLEGED MEETINGS. EILTS

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